

The Claims:

- 5 1. A neural network comprising a plurality of neurons in which any one of the plurality of neurons is able to associate or link with itself or another neuron in the plurality of neurons via active connections to a further neuron in the plurality of neurons.
- 10 2. A neural network as claimed in claim 1, where the further neuron is in a deeper level than both the neuron and the another neuron.
- 15 3. A neural network as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the neuron and the another neuron are in a level selected from the group consisting of: the same, and different.
- 20 4. A neural network as claimed in claim 1, wherein the plurality of neurons includes a plurality of elemental neurons and a plurality of structural neurons; all elemental and structural neurons being able to be associated; all elemental neurons being able to express their elemental values, and all structural neurons being able to express a pair of neurons with which they associate.
- 25 5. A neural network as claimed in claim 4, wherein each structural neuron represents the combined information or memory represented by a pair of neurons, the structural neuron receiving input from the pair of neurons; and each elemental neuron represents at least one selected from the group consisting of: an elemental stimulus, a defined elemental pattern, a defined elemental data element, a basic input stimulus, and an output stimuli of information being processed.
- 30 6. A neural network as claimed in claim 4 or claim 5, wherein associations are at least one selected from the group consisting of: an elemental neuron with an elemental neuron, an elemental neuron with a structural neuron, a structural neuron with an elemental neuron, a structural neuron with a structural neuron.

7. A neural network as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein each of the plurality of neurons is one or more selected from the group consisting of: initiating neuron, associating neuron, and associating neuron.
- 5 8. A neural network as claimed in claim 7, wherein an initiating neuron is associated with an associated neuron via active connections to the associating neuron.
- 10 9. A neural network as claimed in claim 8, wherein the initiating neuron, the associated neuron and the associating neuron are connected based on proximal characteristics, the proximal characteristics being at least one of: temporal, spatial, intensity, magnitude and relative position.
- 15 10. A neural network as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein information represented by a neuron is memory, and processing is at least one of: learning and expression.
- 20 11. A neural network as claimed in any one of claims 4 to 10, wherein a level of the neural network is a deeper level within the neural network structure if, during expression, more steps are required to express the elemental neurons that it represents.
- 25 12. A neural network as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the one of the plurality of neurons is an initiating neuron, the another of the plurality of neurons is an associated neuron, and the further neuron is a associating neuron; the structure being such that when the initiating neuron is activated or fires, the associating neuron is potentiated; and when the associated neuron is activated or fires, the associating neuron is further potentiated and thus activated and is able to fire.
- 30 13. A neural network as claimed in claim 12, wherein the associated neuron is activated or fires at the same time as the initiating neuron.

14. A neural network as claimed in claim 12, wherein the associated neuron is activated or fires after the initiating neuron, with respect to the associating neuron
- 5 15. A neural network as claimed in any one of claims 12 to 14, wherein the activation or firing of the initiating neuron and the associated neuron is based on proximal characteristics.
- 10 16. A neural network as claimed in claim 15, wherein the proximal activation or firing of the initiating neuron and the associated neuron causes the creation of new synaptic connections, or the strengthening of existing synaptic connections, between the initiating neuron and the associating neuron and between the associated neuron and the associating neuron.
- 15 17. A neural network as claimed in any one of claims 12 to 16, wherein the associating neuron represents the sum of what is learnt from the initiating neuron and the associated neuron; the sum including one or more selected from the group consisting of: a memory trace, a combination of the experience of the initiating neuron and the associated neuron, a memory, and a sequence of events.
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18. A neural network as claimed in any one of claims 4 to 17, wherein all elemental neurons are represented in a root level of the neural network.
- 25 19. A neural network as claimed in any one of claims 12 to 18, wherein once the associating neuron is activated to represent a desired result, the desired result need not be recreated in another neuron.
- 30 20. A neural network comprising a plurality of elemental neurons, and a plurality of structural neurons for representing associations between any pair of neurons, the pair of neurons being selected from the group consisting of: both elemental neurons, both structural neurons, one structural and one elemental neuron, and one elemental neuron and one structural neuron.

21. A neural network as claimed in claim 20, wherein the plurality of elemental neurons are represented in a root level of the neural network, and each elemental neuron represents at least one of: an elemental stimulus, a defined pattern and a defined data element; each elemental stimulus being for
5 representing at least one of: a basic input stimuli, and an output stimuli of information being processed.
22. A neural network as claimed in claim 20 or claim 21, wherein each elemental neuron is selected from the group consisting of: a sensor neuron and a motor
10 neuron.
23. A neural network as claimed in claim 21, wherein the information is memory.
24. A neural network as claimed in any one of claims 20 to 23, wherein the
15 processing is at least one of: learning and expression.
25. A neural network as claimed in any one of claims 20 to 24, wherein the plurality of neuron associations are represented in a plurality of deeper neural levels.
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26. A neural network as claimed in claim 25, wherein the number of levels in the plurality of deeper levels is determined by the extent of the memory or pattern to be processed or expressed, where a memory represents a plurality of elemental neurons.
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27. A neural network as claimed in claim 26, wherein the number of elemental neurons and structural neurons required to represent the memory is determined by a nature of the memory to be processed.
- 30 28. A neural network as claimed in any one of claims 20 to 27, wherein any one of the plurality of structural neurons is able to associate with another structural neuron in the plurality of neurons via active connections to a further structural neuron in the plurality of structural neurons.

29. A neural network as claimed in claim 28, where the further structural neuron is in a deeper level than both the structural neuron and the another structural neuron.
- 5 30. A neural network comprising a plurality of neurons linked by associations, all neurons being able to be expressed.
- 10 31. A neural network as claimed in claim 30, wherein the plurality of neurons includes a plurality of elemental neurons and a plurality of structural neurons; all elemental neurons being able to express their elemental values, and all structural neurons being able to express a pair of neurons with which they associate.
- 15 32. A neural network comprising plurality of neurons, each neuron being represented by a unique addressable node in an array.
33. A neural network as claimed in claim 32, wherein each of the plurality of neurons are linked by associations, all neurons being able to be expressed.
- 20 34. A neural network as claimed in claim 33, wherein the plurality of neurons includes a plurality of elemental neurons and a plurality of structural neurons; all elemental neurons being able to express their elemental values, and all structural neurons being able to express a pair of neurons with which they associate.
- 25 35. A neural network as claimed in any one of claims 32 to 34, where each neuron is represented in its entirety by the single node in the array.
- 30 36. A neural network comprising a plurality of nodes in an array, each node comprising at least one pointer, each pointer being a data element of the node; each data element representing a unique address of a specific node in the array, each address representing a neuron of a plurality of neurons.

37. A neural network as claimed in claim 36, wherein each of the plurality of neurons is linked by associations, all neurons being able to be expressed.
- 5 38. A neural network as claimed in claim 36 or claim 37, wherein the plurality of neurons includes a plurality of elemental neurons and a plurality of structural neurons; all elemental neurons being able to express their elemental values, and all structural neurons being able to express a pair of neurons with which they associate.
- 10 39. A neural network as claimed in any one of claims 36 to 38, wherein each of the plurality of neurons is represented by an addressable node in an array.
40. A neural network comprising a plurality of neurons in an array, the array having pointers for providing expression.
- 15 41. A neural network as claimed in claim 40, wherein each neuron is represented by a node in an array, each node having a plurality of pointers.
- 20 42. A neural network as claimed in claim 41, wherein each pointer in each node contains at least one of: an exclusive address of another neuron, and an elemental value for an elemental neuron.
43. A neural network as claimed in claim 41 or claim 42, wherein each pointer has a specific and unique function and represents a synaptic connection.
- 25 44. A neural network as claimed in claim 42 or claim 43 when appended to claim 42, wherein the plurality of neurons includes a plurality of elemental neurons and a plurality of structural neurons; all elemental neurons being able to express their elemental values, and all structural neurons being able to express a pair of neurons with which they associate.
- 30 45. A neural network as claimed in claim 44, wherein except where the pointer represents the value of an elemental stimulus in the elemental neurons, and each pointer contains an address of another neuron.

46. A neural network as claimed in any one of claims 41 to 45, wherein the number of pointers depends on a function being performed by the neural network.
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47. A neural network as claimed in any one of claims 41 to 46, wherein the number of pointers for each neuron is at least two.
48. A neural network as claimed in any one of claims 41 to 47, wherein a function of each pointer to a neuron is selected from the group consisting of: initiating, associating, successor, next successor of the initiating neuron, precessor, and next precessor of the associating neuron
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49. A neural network as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 48, wherein all neurons are of a fixed length.
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50. A neuronal assembly for use in a neural network, the neuronal assembly comprising an initiating neuron, an associated neuron, and a associating neuron operatively connected to the initiating neuron and the associated neuron.
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51. A neural assembly as claimed in claim 50, wherein when the initiating neuron is activated or fires, the associating neuron is potentiated; and when the associated neuron is activated or fires, the associating neuron is potentiated and activated and able to fire.
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52. A neural assembly as claimed in claim 51, wherein the associated neuron fires at the same time as the initiating neuron.
53. A neural assembly as claimed in claim 51, wherein the associated neuron fires after the initiating neuron.
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54. A neural assembly as claimed in any one of claims 50 to 53, wherein the activation or firing of the initiating neuron and the associated neuron is based on proximal characteristics.
- 5 55. A neural assembly as claimed in claim 54, wherein the proximal activation or firing of the initiating neuron and the associated neuron causes the creation of new synaptic connections, or the strengthening of existing synaptic connections, between the initiating neuron and the associating neuron and between the associated neuron and the associating neuron.
- 10 56. A neural assembly as claimed in any one of claims 50 to 55, wherein the associating neuron represents the sum of what is learnt from the initiating neuron and the associated neuron.
- 15 57. A neural assembly as claimed in claim 56, wherein the sum includes one or more selected from the group consisting of: a memory trace, a combination of the experience of the initiating neuron and the associated neuron; a memory, and a sequence of events.
- 20 58. A neural assembly as claimed in any one of claims 50 to 57, wherein once the associating neuron is activated to represent a desired result, the desired result need not be recreated in another neuron.
- 25 59. A method for creating an association of neurons in a neural network, the neural network having a plurality of neurons, one of the plurality of neurons being an initiating neuron, another of the plurality of neurons being an associated neuron, and a further neuron of the plurality of neurons being a associating neuron; the method comprising:
- 30 (a) activating or firing the initiating neuron to potentiate the associating neuron; and
- (b) activating or firing the associated neuron to potentiate and activate the associating neuron, the associating neuron is activated and able to fire.

60. A method as claimed in claim 59, wherein the associated neuron is activated or fires at the same time as the initiating neuron.
- 5 61. A method as claimed in claim 59, wherein the associated neuron is activated or fires after the initiating neuron.
62. A method as claimed in any one of claims 59 to 61, wherein the activation or firing of the initiating neuron and the activation or firing of the associated neuron is based on proximal characteristics.
- 10 63. A method as claimed in claim 62, wherein the proximal activation or firing of the initiating neuron and the associated neuron causes the creation of new synaptic connections, or the strengthening of existing synaptic connections, between the initiating neuron and the associating neuron and between the associated neuron and the associating neuron.
- 15 64. A method as claimed in any one of claims 59 to 63, wherein the associating neuron represents the sum of what is learnt from the initiating neuron and the associated neuron.
- 20 65. A method as claimed in claim 64, wherein the sum includes one or more selected from the group consisting of: a memory trace, a combination of the experience of the initiating neuron and the associated neuron, a memory, and a sequence of events.
- 25 66. A method as claimed in any one of claims 59 to 65, wherein once the associating neuron is activated to represent a desired result, the desired result need not be recreated in another neuron.
- 30 67. A method of operating a neural network having a plurality of neurons including a plurality of elemental neurons and a plurality of structural neurons, the method comprising:
- (a) defining events the elemental neurons and structural neurons will represent;

- (b) creating a required number of elemental neurons for the total number of unique values to be represented for all defined events; and
- (c) creating a set of rules for association of the plurality of neurons.

- 5 68. A method as claimed in claim 67, wherein any one of the plurality of neurons is able to associate with another neuron in the plurality of neurons via active connections to a further neuron in the plurality of neurons.
- 10 69. A method as claimed in claim 68, where the further neuron is in a deeper level than both the neuron and the another neuron.
70. A method as claimed in claim 68 or claim 69, wherein the neuron and the another neuron are in the same level.
- 15 71. A method as claimed in claim 68 or claim 69, wherein the neuron and the another neuron are on different levels.
- 20 72. A method as claimed in any one of claims 67 to 71, wherein all elemental neurons are able to express their elemental values, and all structural neurons are able to express a pair of neurons with which they associate.
- 25 73. A method as claimed in claim 72, wherein associations are one or more selected from the group consisting of: an elemental neuron with an elemental neuron, an elemental neuron with a structural neuron, a structural neuron with an elemental neuron, a structural neuron with a structural neuron.
- 30 74. A method as claimed in any one of claims 67 to 73, wherein each of the plurality of neurons is one or more selected from the group consisting of: initiating neuron, associating neuron, and associating neuron.
75. A method as claimed in claim 74, wherein an initiating neuron is associated with an associated neuron via active connections to the associating neuron.

76. A method as claimed in claim 75, wherein the initiating neuron, the associated neuron and the associating neuron are connected based on proximal characteristics.
- 5 77. A method as claimed in claim 76, wherein the proximal characteristics are at least one of: temporal, spatial, intensity, magnitude and relative position.
78. A method as claimed in any one of claims 69 to 77, wherein a level of the neural network is a deeper level within the neural network structure if, during
10 recollection, more steps are required to express the elemental neurons.
79. A method as claimed in any one of claims 74 to 77, further comprising:
(a) activating or firing the initiating neuron potentiates the associating neuron; and
15 (b) activating or firing the associated neuron potentiates and activates the associating neuron, the associating neuron then activated and able to fire.
80. A method as claimed in claim 79, wherein the associated neuron is activated
20 or fires at the same time as the initiating neuron.
81. A method as claimed in claim 79, wherein the associated neuron is activated or fires after the initiating neuron.
- 25 82. A method as claimed in any one of claims 79 to 81, wherein the activation or firing of the initiating neuron and the activation or firing of the associated neuron is based on proximal characteristics.
- 30 83. A method as claimed in claim 82, wherein the proximal activation or firing of the initiating neuron and the associated neuron causes the creation of new synaptic connections, or the strengthening of existing synaptic connections, between the initiating neuron and the associating neuron and between the associated neuron and the associating neuron.

84. A method as claimed in any one of claims 79 to 83, wherein the associating neuron represents the sum of what is learnt from the initiating neuron and the associated neuron.
- 5 85. A method as claimed in claim 84, wherein the sum includes one or more selected from the group consisting of: a memory trace, a combination of the experience of the initiating neuron and the associated neuron, a memory, and a sequence of events.
- 10 86. A method as claimed in any one of claims 69 to 85, wherein the plurality of elemental neurons are represented in a root level of the neural network, and each elemental neuron responds to an elemental stimulus or pattern, each elemental stimulus being for representing one of: a basic input stimuli and an output stimuli of information being processed.
- 15 87. A method as claimed in claim 86, wherein the information is memory.
88. A method as claimed in claim 86 or claim 87, wherein the processing is expression.
- 20 89. A method as claimed in any one of claims 86 to 88, wherein the plurality of structural neurons are represented in a plurality of deeper neural levels.
- 25 90. A method as claimed in claim 89, wherein the number of levels in the plurality of deeper levels is determined by the extent of the memory or pattern to be processed or expressed, where a memory represents a plurality of elemental stimuli, and each elemental stimulus is represented directly by an elemental neuron.
- 30 91. A method as claimed in claim 90, wherein the number of elemental neurons required to represent the memory is determined by a nature of the memory to be processed.

92. A method as claimed in any one of claims 67 to 91, wherein each neuron is represented in its entirety by a single, fixed-length node in an array.
- 5 93. A method as claimed in any one of claims 67 to 91, wherein each of the plurality of neurons is in an array, the array having pointers for providing expression
- 10 94. A method as claimed in claim 93, wherein each neuron is represented by a node in the array, each node having a plurality of pointers, each pointer in each node containing an exclusive address of another neuron.
95. A method as claimed in any one of claims 67 to 94, wherein all neurons are of a fixed length.
- 15 96. A computer usable medium comprising a computer program code configured to cause one or more processors to execute one or more functions to perform the method claimed in claims 67 to 95.
- 20 97. A neural network as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 49, wherein the neural network is bi-directional.
98. A neural network wherein the neural network is bi-directional and is enabled to operate in a forward direction where output is derived from events, and in a reverse direction where events are derived from output.
- 25 99. A neural network as claimed in claim 98, wherein the forward direction is learning, and the reverse direction is expression.
- 30 100. A neural network as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 49, 97 to 99, wherein the neural network stores associations and not data.
101. A neural network as claimed in claim 100, wherein the neural network recognises patterns within patterns of associations.

102. A neural network as claimed in claim 100 or claim 101, wherein the neural network is used for one or more of: monitoring and predicting stock price movements, Internet surveillance, Internet security, computer virus detection, computer spam detection, phrases in speech and text, clauses in speech and text, plagiarism detection, bioinformatics, vision recognition, semantic analysis, representation of data ontologies, robotics, and data compression.